Art of the Renaissance and Baroque Europe
Overview

The 1000 years of european history from the fall of the roman empire, the acceptance of christianity/rise of Islam was known as the middle ages. This next period is known as the Renaissance.

Renaissance- a cultural rebirth of europe from the 14th-17th century.

https://youtu.be/Vufba_ZcoR0
Overview

An argument could be made that this reawakening to Greek and Roman Ideas started during the romanesque era with Charlemagne and the Ottonian Kings at 1000ce.

- An awakening of influences of the classical world of greece and rome.
- The influence of classical subject matter, nudes and mythological figures
- These classical images are appropriated and given a christian message
- Invention of moveable type and the printing press spread ideas around, improved literacy, means of travel.
- Humanism became influential as a philosophical approach to life that stressed people’s intellectual and physical potential to achieve personal success and contribute to society

![Map of Western Europe](image)

Legend:
- Largest Cities
- 125,000 and over
- 100,000 to 125,000
- 50,000 to 100,000
- 25,000 to 50,000

Largest Cities in Western Europe, ca. 1500. There were as many large cities in the Italian peninsula as in all of the rest of western Europe.
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- Religion was a HUGE part of peoples lives
- Reformation happened in 1517 that had chunks of europe break away from the Catholic Church
- Counter Reformation 1545-1648 was a catholic backlash, reasserting ideas and beliefs of catholicism
- Catholic artwork highlighted the power of intermediaries- saints and the church between christians and god. Middlemen.
- Protestantism is based on more of an individual and direct relationship with God rather than being strictly guided by the church.
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- The art of the Renaissance can be divided into chronological and style periods: early, high, late, mannerist
- The baroque followed 1600-1750. Baroque was a style in art, architecture, literature that used tension, and exaggeration to manipulate drama

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The Early Renaissance in Italy

- Firstly, Italy could be seen as the point that started the Renaissance because of the extravagant wealth the small independent city states had. Expert sailors. Had control of the Mediterranean and traded with very wealthy islamic world (Ottomans)
- Competition between city states with this surplus money creating these works of art.
- Notably the cities of Florence and Sienna as to had the best painter, Giotto in Florence vs Duccio in Sienna.
The Early Renaissance in Italy

- Back up to 1235. Bonaventura Berlinghieri, Saint Francis Altarpiece, San Francesco, Pescia, Italy, 1235
- Its Byzantine in appearance, most everything appeared byzantine in the middle ages because the Byzantine Empire was relatively wealthy and the seat of culture in the christian world. But changes were to happen as Italy (Catholic Church)(Had beef with Orthodoxy in the Byzantine World) as they began to trade with the outside world. Wealth created investment in new artwork, identities of Former Italian power, a return to Roman antiquity
The Early Renaissance in Italy

- Nicola Pisano, pulpit of the baptistery, Pisa Italy 1259-1260
- Settled in pisa Italy (Money) and began seeking commissions.
- During this time he was making a switch between gothic arches back to roman arches, he also started to make rectangular relief panels that resembled the sculptured front of roman Sarcophagus
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- Cimabue, Madonna Enthroned with angels and prophets, Florence 1280-1290
- Cimabue become one of the first artists to break from the Byzantine style. He is relying on byzantine structure and materials, Gold Leaf, Tempera, he is returning to Greek and Roman Classicism with the 3D qualities in light and shadows.
The Early Renaissance in Italy

- Giotto Di Bondone, Madonna Enthroned Florence 1310.
- Giotto was the artist first associated with cracking open the Renaissance and leaving behind the Byzantine Style.
- [https://youtu.be/DKnFvXmUI0I](https://youtu.be/DKnFvXmUI0I)
The Early Renaissance in Italy

- Giotto Di Bondone, Lamentation c 1305
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The Early Renaissance in Italy

- Arnolfo di Cambio, Florence Cathedral, Italy 1296, With Filippo Brunelleschi's dome on Florence Cathedral 1420-36
- Brunelleschi is famous for solving an architectural problem in Florence. 100 years after construction started, nobody figured out how to dome Florence Cathedral
- He won the proposal he devised the machinery to build the dome, oversaw construction.
- https://youtu.be/TQ8F_yPwqzA
- https://youtu.be/_IOPlGPQPuM
- https://youtu.be/QWz90KdrDBs
The Early Renaissance in Italy

- Brunelleschi invents perspective drawing during this time.
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- Masaccio implements this system into his frescos he completed
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- Masaccio, Tribute Money, c1427
High Renaissance, Italy

- Artists Like Leonardo and Michelangelo develop further the systems invented in perspective drawing systems, but willingly departed from exact mechanical precision in order to create desired visual effects
- Leonardo, Last Supper, c 1497 Fresco Tempera on Plaster, Milan Italy
- https://youtu.be/iV6_wTrkd70
High Renaissance, Italy

- Michelangelo, Last Judgement, 1534-41
  Sistine Chapel, Vatican City, Italy
- The follow up to the sistine chapel 20 years later in his sixties. Shows his love for voluminous human sculptural forms
- [https://youtu.be/c2MuTvQM6fY](https://youtu.be/c2MuTvQM6fY)
High Renaissance, Italy

- [Link](https://youtu.be/bvg1cYDqd0U)
- Palladio Villa Rotunda 1565
High Renaissance, Italy

- [Link to video](https://youtu.be/bvq1cYDqd0U)
- Palladio Villa Rotunda 1565

![Diagram of Palladio Villa Rotunda 1565](GreatBuildings.com)
High Renaissance, Italy

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https://youtu.be/1ek1SI1oAwU
High Renaissance, Italy

Influences of Architecture of Antiquity. Pantheon, Rome

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Northern European Renaissance

Jan van Eyck, The Arnolfini Portrait 1434

https://youtu.be/9ODhKqFaugQ

- Symbolism- using images or symbols in an artwork to convey meaning
- Oil painting instead of Tempera paint
- Glazing-in oil painting, adding a transparent layer to paint to achieve a richness in texture, volume and form
- Iconographic analysis- the study of art by interpreting symbols, themes and subject matter as sources of meaning
Northern European Renaissance

Pieter Bruegel the Elder, Netherlandish Proverbs 1559. Oil on panel.

- https://youtu.be/mSPumIx85l8
- Contains more than 100 sayings in the same painting.
Northern European Renaissance

Matthias Grunewald, Isenheim Altarpiece (closed)
1510-15 Oil on panel.

- https://youtu.be/p-lvNWAWQ08
- Was painted for a hospital for patients with skin diseases, Christ was painted. Depicted as afflicted with skin disease.
Northern European Renaissance

Matthias Grunewald, Isenheim Altarpiece (2nd position, Open) 1510-15 Oil on panel.

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Northern European Renaissance

- Albrecht Durer, the last supper, 1523
- https://youtu.be/C3DmiEsvs6U
- Travel trips to Italy influenced Durer’s work
- Christ is center in this composition, like Leonardo’s composition
- 11 disciples instead of 12, showing Judas was already on his way to betray Christ
- Showing a Protestant version of this scene, we are not receiving the body or blood of Christ.
- Durer’s woodcuts were more traveled in a painting. Printing presses upped production to allow greater circulation.
Late Renaissance/Mannerism

- The high renaissance came to lose when Charles the V sacked Rome in 1527. Forcing many artists to flee the city.
- Pope Clement VII had to crown Charles the Holy Roman Emperor in 1530, it marked the end of Italian supremacy. Creating a great disorder reflected in the art.
- https://youtu.be/MRYzW3BSj0I
Late Renaissance/Mannerism

- Veronese, Christ in the House of Levi, 1573. Oil on canvas
- Rhythm of architecture vs the scene of people. Balancing Dissonance and Symmetry
Late Renaissance/Mannerism

- Pontormo, Deposition 1525-28, Oil on wood.
- Proportion of the figures in the scene, how do they look?
- [https://youtu.be/ABhqENOxSrU](https://youtu.be/ABhqENOxSrU)
- Deposition, taking Christ off the cross to entomb him.
The Baroque

- El Greco, Laocoön and his sons. 1610-14 Oil on Canvas.
- The baroque was a period of time of great exploration, increased trade to the americas, discoveries in the sciences.
- The western world accepted the copernican theory that the sun was the center of the solar system not the earth.
- Catholic church rejected this view for a long time
- 30 years war came during this time in the collapse of the Holy Roman Empire
- Dutch east india company began colonizing north america.
- Work displayed a sense of turmoil in art, theatre, music. Architecture used distortion of form to distort reality. Small interiors were stretched to seem larger.
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- Gianlorenzo Bernini, David, 1623.
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